

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, MARCH QUARTER 1979 (PRELIMINARY)

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Graham Angus on Canberra 526572 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616

For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra 526627 or State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

- The preliminary estimate of average weekly earnings per employed male unit for the March quarter 1979 is \$222.70. (This is an estimate of the average earnings, before tax, of all male civilian employees in Australia, including the highest paid as well as the lowest.)
- In seasonally adjusted terms the estimate is \$231.00, 4.1 per cent higher than in the December quarter and 9.1 per cent above the figure for the March quarter 1978.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This preliminary statement contains estimates of the average weekly earnings of civilian male employees for Australia. It should be noted that the estimates for the most recent quarter are preliminary and are likely to be revised when the more detailed publication *Average Weekly Earnings* (6302.0) is issued.

Definition of earnings

2. The earnings figures used in the calculation of the averages comprise award and over-award wages and salaries, the earnings of employees not covered by awards, overtime earnings, bonuses and allowances, commissions, directors' fees and payments made retrospectively or in advance during the quarter. Earnings of managerial and executive staff, of part-time as well as full-time employees, and of juniors as well as adults, are included.

Method of estimation

3. For industries other than agriculture and private domestic service, particulars of employment and wages and salaries are derived from payroll tax returns and from direct returns from government and other bodies. These returns account for approximately 90 per cent of wage and salary earners in these industries, as published monthly in the bulletin *Civilian Employees* (6213.0). Estimates are made for the unrecorded balance.

4. For employees reported on more than one payroll, all reported wage and salary earnings are included in the calculation of averages.

Male units

5. Particulars of wages and salaries paid are not available for males and females separately from the sources used for this series; average weekly earnings have therefore been calculated in terms of *male units*, i.e. total male employees plus a proportion of female employees, the proportion being derived from the estimated ratio of female to male average earnings.

6. The ratio used at present is 67 per cent. Changes in this ratio may be necessary from one quarter to the next to reflect, for example, the extension of equal pay provisions, or appreciable and sustained changes in the levels of male overtime earnings. However, small differences in the ratios have relatively little effect on the earnings figures; if the ratio is understated by one per cent then average weekly earnings of \$200 would be overstated by about 70 cents.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

7. Quarterly figures are affected by seasonal influences. For example, special payments, including prepayment for holiday periods, tend to raise the December quarter and to depress the March quarter averages. In addition, figures are affected by the varying number of pay-days in different quarters. Allowance for these variations, and for recurring seasonal influences, has been made in calculating the seasonally adjusted estimates.

8. The seasonal adjustment factors are derived from a series from which the influence of major changes in awards and determinations and estimates of the effects of pay-day variations has first been removed. While the seasonally adjusted series retain the effect of the major award, etc. changes, the pay-day effect is excluded (See note to table on page 2). A detailed description of the methods of seasonal adjustment is given in *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators* (1308.0).

Related publications

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- p preliminary — figure subject to revision
- r figure or series revised since previous issue

A.R. BAGNALL
Acting Australian Statistician

M9
331.2994
HIS

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a) : AUSTRALIA

Quarter	Original \$	Seasonally adjusted (b) \$	Quarterly change (c) %	Annual change (d) %
1974 -				
September	138.40	141.10	+11.6	+25.8
December	154.40	147.80	+4.7	+28.3
1975 -				
March	143.80	152.00	+2.8	+27.0
June	156.40	153.60	+1.1	+21.5
September	157.60	159.80	+4.0	+13.3
December	175.70	167.40	+4.8	+13.3
1976 -				
March	165.30	169.90	+1.5	+11.8
June	179.80	179.50	+5.7	+16.9
September	184.80	184.40	+2.7	+15.4
December	195.50	187.80	+1.8	+12.2
1977 -				
March	183.80	192.30	+2.4	+13.2
June	198.70	198.40	+3.2	+10.5
September	204.10	202.90	+2.3	+10.0
December	212.50	206.90	+2.0	+10.2
1978 -				
March	205.10	211.80	+2.4	+10.1
June	216.30	215.50	+1.7	+8.6
September	218.90	221.40	+2.7	+9.1
December r	228.20	222.00	+0.3	+7.3
1979 -				
March p	222.70	231.00	+4.1	+9.1

(a) See explanation in paragraphs 5 and 6. (b) See paragraphs 7 and 8. (c) Percentage change over previous quarter in the seasonally adjusted series. (d) Percentage change over same quarter of previous year in the seasonally adjusted series.

NOTE. A revised seasonally adjusted earnings series for Australia was published in the December quarter publication. Some changes have since been made to the analysis to overcome apparent anomalies in the estimation of pay-day effects in this series. The seasonally adjusted series in this bulletin incorporate these revised estimates.